

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A tooling system which comprises a plurality of rectangular tool elements arranged in an array to form perpendicular rows and columns of tool elements to define a tool surface, the elements of the array being movable between a closed position in which the elements contact one another and are secured in position, and an open position in which the elements of the array are spaced apart and are capable of vertical movement relative to one another, wherein the tooling system further comprises at least one bolster means provided to hold the elements of the array securely in the closed ~~position and~~ position, each bolster means having ~~an~~ a plurality of element contacting ~~face~~ faces, each element contacting face being configured ~~which is adapted~~ selectively to apply localized pressure to one or more tool elements of the array to adjust an orientation of the tool elements, aligning edges of the tool elements, so as to correct any inter-row or inter-array misalignment, and causing vertices of four adjacent elements to touch one another in the closed position, so that the tool elements of the array tessellate .

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A tooling system according to claim 1 wherein the array is substantially rectangular in plan view and bolster means are provided on at least two adjacent sides of the rectangular array.

6. (Previously Presented) A tooling system according to claim 5 wherein bolster means are provided on all four sides of the rectangular array.

7. (Currently Amended) A tooling system according to claim 6 wherein the outer edges of the rectangular array ~~are serrated~~ comprise a plurality of serrations and wherein each element contacting face of the bolster means corresponding to a serration of the plurality of serrations ~~has a correspondingly serrated face~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A tooling system according to claim 7 wherein the ~~face~~ plurality of element contacting faces of the bolster means contacting the array ~~is~~ are formed from a plurality of teeth, at least some of which teeth are independently adjustable in order to apply localised pressure selectively to one or more elements of the array, in line with the sides of the elements.

9. (Previously Presented) A tooling system according to claim 8 wherein the teeth are also individually adjustable in height relative to one another.

10. (Previously Presented) A tooling system according to claim 1 wherein the bolster means comprise two sets of bolsters, the first of which is used during machining of the elements of the tooling system and the second of which is used when the elements of the array have been machined and the system is being used as a mould.

11. (Previously Presented) A tooling system according to claim 1 wherein at least one of the bolster means is formed of two or more separate component sections, so that one or more component sections maybe removed to allow opening and adjustment of a part of the array, while maintaining the remainder of the array secured in the closed position.

12. (Previously Presented) A tooling system according to claim 1 wherein the bolster means are modular in design, so that individual bolster sides interlock with one another to form larger units.

13. **(Previously Presented)** A tooling system according to claim 1 wherein it further comprises vibrating means, so that the bolster sides can be vibrated to assist in bedding down the elements of the array.

14. **(Previously Presented)** A tooling system according to claim 1 wherein it further comprises sensors to detect and measure the forces applied to the elements of the array and/or to detect any movement.

15. **(Previously Presented)** A tooling system according to claim 1 wherein it further comprises means for securing the bolster means in position around the array of elements.

16. **(Previously Presented)** A tooling system according to claim 7 wherein the bolster means comprises four identical bolster components each of which is mounted on a cross rail of the array and guided by a guide rail with which it is in sliding engagement.

17. **(Previously Presented)** A tooling system according to claim 16 wherein the bolster means is substantially circular or substantially rectangular.

18. **(Previously Presented)** A tooling system according to claim 2 wherein the faces of the bolster means which contact the elements of the array are provided with contact pads.

19. **(New)** A tooling system according to claim 5, wherein outer edges of the rectangular array comprise a plurality of serrations, each element contacting face of the bolster means corresponding to a serration of the array and arranged such that element contacting faces on adjacent bolster means are configured to selectively apply localized pressure to tool elements at both ends of a line or column of the array.